resposibility of the Press Information Bureau, a centralised institution, which is manned by specialists from the Indian Information Service. The Public Relations Wing of the Ministries/Departments including Defence are headed by a PIB officer. At the same time, the Directorate of Public Relations of the Ministry of Defence also has officers from all the three defence Services. There is good mix of media and Service professionals with a view to projecting the defence services.

(b) and (c) At present only 3 of the 36 sanctioned posts of Public Relations Officers in the Ministry of Defence are lying vacant. Two of these posts fell vacant in November 93 upon premature retirement/transfer of the incumbents. The third post fell vacant on 21st October, 93 for similar reasons. Efforts are being made to fill these vacancies at the earliest.

Revamping of the public relations set up for the defence services is an ongoing process and is carried out as and when required.

NEED TO ACQUIRE NUCLEAR SUB MARINES FOR INDIA

3128. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA.
MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an urgent need for India to acquire nuclear powered submarines in the Indian ocean to discourage foreign interferences and safety; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) The country's requirements in terms of naval equipment are assessed with reference to the Perspective Plan and Annual Plan drawn up for the purpose, also taking into account the geo-strategic environment, the threat perception, the country's maritime interests, the likely tasks that the Navy may be called upon to perform and the budgetary resources available. Prioritisation of requirements is thust under constant review.

LAPSES BY CANTONMENT BOARDS, LUCKNOW AND KANPUR

3129. SHRI RAFIQ ALAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial lapses determined by the Audit authorities in the last 3 years on the working of Cantonment Boards in Lucknow and Kanpur.

(b) whether it is a fact that a group of encroachers have been taking away the properties in these cantonments existing under the old grant or normal leases in different areas within the limits of the Cantonment;

(c) whether a committee has been constituted to determine the lapses on the part of Defence Estate Office to prevent mauthorised constructions or encroachments in Kanpur Cantonment area; and

(d) if so, by when the committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (d) Audit Authorities have not pointed out any major financial lapse except some minor objections/observations of procedural nature committed by the Cantonment Boards, Kanpur and Lucknow during the last 3 years, and have certified that the accounts are maintained by these Cantonment Boards satisfactorily.

2. As regards encroachments on properties under old grants/or normal leases, Bungalow No. 1, Nehru Road, Lucknow covering an area of 10.85 acres which was held on old grant by Shri Ram Das was transferred to Shri Thakurji Maharaj through a registered Will and a trust was created to look after the property. On